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SGI DETACHMENT, 12 ARMY GROUP

27 Dec 44

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TO: VEZ, London, Info CO, SGI, Western Europe, Paris.

FROM: CO, SGI, 12 Army Group.

SUBJECT: SKORZENY Mission Against General Eisenhower.

1. Reference your telegram 144 (No 554 to Bliss) requesting full particulars of all PWs who have given information on the Skorzeny mission against Eisenhower, with dates of capture and confessions, and our comments on their readiness to speak and possible motives in doing so, the following is submitted. It is based on First Army PW interrogation reports.
2. The report that Obersturmbannfuhrer SKORZENY and a picked group of followers had gone to Paris to assassinate or kidnap General EISENHOWER came from a number of captured Germans in the period between 20 and 24 December.
3. The first substantial report was given by German Air Force Lieutenant Guenther SCHULZ, captured in LIEGE 19 December. He stated that SKORZENY had been given (not stated by whom) the mission to attack General EISENHOWER's headquarters in Paris and to kill the leading personages there.
4. He said SKORZENY would pass through FRANCE with 80 men in American uniforms, jeeps and command cars. Some of the group would wear uniforms of German officers, because the unit would fake a transport of German prisoners to Paris. Their meeting place in Paris would be the Cafe de la Paix, where foreign collaborators would join them.
5. Lt. SCHULZ named and described some of SKORZENY's assistants, among them Major LORENZEN, Lt. SCHMIDL, Major von SCHROETER, Captain von BEER and Lt. FRESE.
6. SCHULZ said he got his information from Obersturmbannfuhrer RADICK during an officers meeting at GRAFENWOHR at the beginning of December.
7. As to SCHULZ's willingness to talk, it should be mentioned that he stated he is ashamed to have participated in the attack in the manner he did, and desires to atone by helping us to suppress these activities. In return, he asked only that he be permitted to commit suicide by shooting himself. As to SCHULZ's reliability, details given by him on other points were checked with details given by other prisoners and were found to correspond.
8. Other prisoners who told of the project were Lt. Arno KRAUSE, Gefreiter Rolf Benjamin MEYER, Gefreiter Robert POLLACK, Feldwebel Erhard MUMEL, Gefreiter Hans WITZACK, Feldwebel Horst GOERLICH and Gefreiter Otto STRULLER, who were all captured in GERMONT 22 December in American uniforms.
9. Three of these said they wished to atone for their

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violation of the rules of warfare by giving us all information in their possession. They were MEYER, MIGUEL and STRULLER.

10. MEYER stated that in the SS Interpreters School in GRANINGEN on or about 5 December he overheard the Commanding Officer of the school and two high SS officers discussing the SKORZENY undertaking. He gave the same outline of the mission as furnished by Lt. SCHUIZ above. He said the leading figures seemed to be Captain von BEHR and Lt. SCHNEIDER-- not SCHMIDT, as given by SCHUIZ-- and he mentioned another 2nd Lt. LOCHNER, who speaks seven languages.

11. MEYER added that many NAPOLI-- Nazi Leaders School-- students would participate in the attempt. They would try to enter the Paris Hq by using faked identity cards. They are equipped with Plastik and Nepolit explosives and with poisoned ammunition for their weapons. The gang would be aided by parachutists to be dropped in the vicinity of Paris.

12. MEYER's willingness to talk can be assumed because of the readiness with which he consented to draw diagrams of strategic locations in Germany.

13. Gefreiter STRULLER, of the same group, said simply that he heard that SKORZENY was already on his mission, which was to assassinate General EISENHOWER and other members of the Supreme Command.

14. From an entirely different corner came a bit of confirmation in the interrogation of Angele AIETTL, of Italian origin, a member of the IAN Penal Company, who was captured and interrogated on 23 December. He said that two different German soldiers told him of the plan to kidnap General EISENHOWER. He said that six trucks filled with Germans dressed in British uniforms would accomplish the mission. They had forged identity documents and letters of introduction to headquarters officers.

15. From still another corner came an additional detail, this time from German soldiers Henry PEPITZ, Alfred FRANZ and Rolf JESCH, members of the Fifth Company, Parachute Regiment 1.2.3.4, 150 Panzer Brigade. They quoted SKORZENY as saying that he had been received personally by Hitler who gave him the most important mission of his life. They were willing to talk, but they did not state precisely where and when SKORZENY made this statement.

16. From an examination of all the above statements, the following conclusions might logically be drawn:

a. The report of the SKORZENY mission to eliminate General EISENHOWER was widespread in the 150 Panzer Brigade.

b. All reports are sufficiently coherent to refer to the same enterprise, and the same leader, SKORZENY.

c. The prisoners were willing to talk.

d. Since SKORZENY's previous exploits and attempted exploits are well known, it is not illogical to suppose that he might try a mission such as the one above indicated.

e. However, it is also logical to suppose that this very fact might have given spontaneous birth to the report among the troops preparing for the counter-offensive.

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1. The rumors, if they were rumors, might have been deliberately spread to assist morale during a difficult operation.

2. It is not to be excluded that they were spread to serve as deception material to be fed American captors.

3. If the mission had been truly mounted, it is also logical to assume that such a venture would have been cloaked in the thickest secrecy. No officer such as HADUCK would have been permitted to make it public even at an officers meeting, and that a number of days in advance of the approximate date of its execution.

4. None of the prisoners interrogated saw anything written on the project.

5. No one states that he himself heard of the project from SKORZENY himself.

6. The prisoners are comparatively low in rank. They would be more likely to have received and spread rumors rather than facts.

7. They differ sufficiently among themselves in detail to warrant the belief that the story had been embroidered as it made the rounds.

8. This belief is strengthened by certain romantic shadings such as poisoned ammunition.

9. Two circumstances cited by the above-mentioned prisoners tend toward disproving the statement that SKORZENY is leading the mission against ELSAHOFFER. These are, 1, that he is the Commanding Officer of the 150 Panzer Brigade, with the cover name of SOLAR, and therefore would be tied down with the operations of the Brigade; and, 2, that he was slightly wounded in one eye by splinters from an anti-aircraft shell a few days before the attack was to start.

10. The interrogations should have been much more searching as to sources and circumstances of reports.

17. In general, we conclude:

A. There is not sufficient evidence from the interrogations to warrant an outright belief that SKORZENY has embarked on such a mission.

B. Enough is known about SKORZENY to justify the belief that such a mission is "right in his groove," and

C. The various reports, plus our knowledge of SKORZENY's character, require that utmost precautions be taken at all major Allied headquarters in France and the Low Countries, wherever located.

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